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16 April 1973

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Mr. Allen H. Kassof
Executive Director
International Research and Exchanges Board
110 East Fifty-Ninth Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Kassof:

Dr. Schlesinger has asked me to respond to your letter to him of April 6, 1973 concerning CIA contacts with U. S. academicians.

You are correct in your view that academicians are under no obligation to report any information to us. It is for each individual to decide whether or not he will cooperate with us. If he wishes to assist us, we deal with him as an individual in a discreet and confidential manner. If he chooses not to do so, we respect his wishes and make no further effort to contact him. I can assure you that the matter rests there and that such individuals do not, as you put it, "run the risk of finding themselves defined as hostile or even unpatriotic".

Because this is a matter for each individual to decide for himself, I would hope that your organization will not find it necessary to discuss it in an open forum, particularly with foreigners present.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Proctor
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Letter to Mr. Kassof of the International Research and
Exchanges Board

From: Edward W. Proctor

Dated: 16 April 1973

EWProctor:fbr

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INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND EXCHANGES BOARD

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DDI-102673

April 6, 1973

Mr. James Schlesinger, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, Virginia

Dear Mr. Schlesinger:

The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) conducts, on behalf of the American academic community, a number of scholarly exchange programs and allied activities with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe. We are sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council, and supported by funds from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, the Ford Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Among the programs we administer are certain educational portions of the inter-governmental agreement between the USA and the USSR.

One of our major participating universities recently notified us that a representative of the CIA visited their campus to quiz various faculty members and administrators concerning the behavior, activities, and social and political opinions of the Soviet scholars who are currently in residence. Similar complaints have reached us in the past from other universities.

We have advised individuals and institutions thus affected that, so far as IREX is concerned, they have no obligation to report such information concerning our Soviet and East European scholars. At the same time, we have not presumed to instruct them not to do so, since it seems to us that such a prohibition would have no force and that in any case it is a citizen's prerogative to deal with any government agency according to his own best lights.

You will understand that this places our academic colleagues in an extremely awkward and uncomfortable situation, since those who believe--quite rightly, in my opinion--that it is both wrong and foolish to induce scholars and university administrators to serve as the eyes and ears of an intelligence agency run the risk of finding themselves defined as hostile or even unpatriotic. Thus they are torn between placing themselves and their institutions in real or imagined jeopardy vis-a-vis the government, or behaving in an unprincipled manner which, moreover, almost certainly violates scholarly ethics.

If the Agency's practice continues, and perhaps there are considered

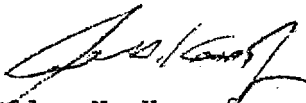
Mr. James Schlesinger

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to be overwhelming reasons in favor of such a course, our participating universities may well demand that IREX take a definite position on the question in order that they may avoid being placed in such an untenable situation. That, in turn, would require a full and open airing of the problem and an exchange of opinions in public, possibly as soon as the forthcoming annual meeting of our member universities on April 18th in New York City, an occasion on which there will also be a number of foreign guests also present. For obvious reasons I very much hope that this can be avoided, for I can foresee only damaging consequences for all concerned. I therefore especially hope that I shall be in a position to assure those who will wish to raise the question that the problem no longer exists.

Sincerely yours,



Allen H. Kassof

AHK/jh

c.c. Mr. Charles Stefan, SES, Department of State
Mr. Guy Coriden, CU, Department of State
Dr. Frederick Burkhardt, President, American Council
of Learned Societies